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Permit will be required to demonstrate at funerals

LANSING – Legislation that would require a permit to demonstrate outside a funeral home, cemetery or other location where a funeral or memorial service is taking place was passed by the Senate today, said bill sponsor Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac.

“We are protecting the dignity and privacy of soldiers and their families while maintaining freedom of speech,” Gilbert said. “I am pleased my colleagues joined with me today in supporting this legislation.”

Gilbert’s measure would require protestors to apply for and be issued a permit from the local unit of government. A permit would not have to be issued if the service is on private property and one may be issued if the service is on public property.

Additionally, the local government may charge a fee for the application and issuance of a permit.

Senate Bill 1199 now goes to the House for consideration.

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